

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services



VISION

Healthy Missourians living in an environment that is safe, supportive, and conducive to a healthy lifestyle.

MISSION

Department of Health and Senior Services protects and promotes quality of life and health for all Missourians by developing and implementing programs and systems that provide: information and education; effective regulation and oversight; quality services; and surveillance of diseases and conditions.

www.dhss.state.mo.us

Director's Office

The oversight for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services comes from the director who is responsible for the management of the department and the administration of its programs and services. The chief operating officer assists the director in the management of the department and acts for the director in his/her absence. The deputy directors of the two major operating areas, health and public health, and senior services and regulation, assist the director and the chief operating officer in the management of the department. The Division of Administration, Center for Health Information Management and Evaluation, Center for Health Improvement; Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism; State Public Health Laboratory; the offices of Personnel, Training and Professional Development, Public Information, Minority Health, General Counsel, Governmental Policy and Legislation, Women's Health, and Epidemiology; report to the director and chief operating officer. The Governor's Commission on Special Health, Psychological and Social Needs of Minority Older Individuals is staffed and co-chaired by the Office of Minority Health.

A State Board of Health and State Board of Senior Services advise the director regarding the priorities, policies and programs of the department and review rules promulgated by the department. The boards each consist of seven members appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Missouri Senate.

Contact: Richard C. Dunn, Director

573/751-6001

Ronald W. Cates, Chief Operating Officer

573/751-6002

The deputy director of Health and Public Health oversees the Center for Local Public Health Services; divisions of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; Environmental Health and Communicable Disease Prevention; Maternal, Child and Family Health; and Nutritional Health and Services; and the five district offices.

Contact: Tricia Schlechte, Deputy Director, Health and Public Health

573/751-6459

Senior Services and Regulation is responsible for the administration of programs to help ensure the health, safety and welfare of older adults and adults with disabilities. The deputy director is responsible for the Division of Health Standards and Licensure and the Division of Senior Services. Other programs include: Board of Nursing Home Administrators; Governor's Advisory Council on Aging; Silver Haired Legislature; Office of State Ombudsman for Long-Term Care Residents; Training Unit; and the Central Registry Unit. The Central Registry Unit operates a toll-free, 24-hour hotline (1-800-392-0210) for reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of individuals who are over the age of 60 or physically/mentally impaired aged 18 and older, and the toll-free information and referral number (1-800-235-5503).

Contact: Jerry Simon, Interim Deputy Director, Senior Services and Regulation

573/751-8535

Division of Administration

The Division of Administration provides fiscal and general services support to all department units. Services include budget administration, grants and contract administration, accounting and procurement, general office support, and internal auditing.

Contact: Mark Reading, Director

573/751-6014

Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism

The Center for Emergency Response/Terrorism is responsible for coordinating regional and state planning for public health emergencies and natural disasters, including biological, chemical and nuclear terrorism. Through partnerships with hospitals and other healthcare organizations, local entities including government and law enforcement agencies, and other partners, the Center works to assure systems are in place to protect the health of Missourians during a public health emergency.

Contact: Pam Walker, Director

573/526-0176

Center for Health Information Management and Evaluation

The Center for Health Information Management and Evaluation is responsible for collecting, analyzing and distributing health-related data that promotes the better understanding of health problems and needs in Missouri, as well as spotlighting improvements and progress achieved in the health of Missourians. Health information collected and reported includes births and deaths, incidence of disease, incidence of injury, health manpower and hospital and nursing home information. The center publishes consumer guides on hospitals and managed care plans. This center issues certified copies of birth and death records to Missourians. The center's Office of Information Systems provides support for the department's statewide data network and computer database applications.

Contact: Garland Land, Director

573/751-6272

Center for Health Improvement

The Center for Health Improvement is responsible for the Community Health Assistance Resource Team (CHART), Community Support Unit, Health Systems Development Unit and Oral Health Policy Unit. The center works directly with communities to help them assess their needs, identify capacity for meeting those needs and develop partnership and collaborative efforts that will sustain long-term health improvement. This center also provides funding to help place and support medical/dental providers in underserved areas of the state.

Contact: Connie Mihalevich, Director

573/751-8998

State Public Health Laboratory

The State Public Health Laboratory provides testing services in the fields of chemistry, environmental bacteriology, microbiology, serology and virology. Each year, more than one-half million specimens are submitted to the central lab and at branch labs in Springfield and Poplar Bluff for testing and examination. The laboratory is also responsible for approving methods and instruments and issuing permits to qualified individuals to perform tests used to enforce Missouri's law prohibiting driving while under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

Contact: Eric Blank, Director

573/751-3334

Center for Local Public Health Services

The Center for Local Public Health Services provides leadership and technical assistance to promote a strong local public health system. The center is charged with developing the needed tools, policies and strategies to strengthen public health services statewide. The center is active in defining the core public health roles and activities and in building capacity to carry them out at the local level, in developing standards of performance for local agencies, and in designing model local agencies.

Contact: Mahree Skala, Director

573/751-6170

Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

The Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion administers programs for the prevention and control of chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis and arthritis through research, screening, behavioral intervention and community health education activities. The division develops and coordinates community-based health promotion projects, coordinates the Tobacco Use Prevention program, coordinates cancer control and cancer prevention activities, coordinates an organ donor registry, provides no-cost mammograms and pap smears to uninsured women and conducts, as part of a national effort, a monthly survey on health behaviors of Missourians.

Contact: Bert Malone, Director

573/522-2800

Division of Environmental Health and Communicable Disease Prevention

The Division of Environmental Health and Communicable Disease Prevention is responsible for the investigation of the cause, origin and method of transmission of diseases of public health importance and environmental health conditions of specific interest. The interrelated services of the division focus on disease prevention and control. Included are specific responsibilities related to communicable diseases, vaccine-preventable diseases, tuberculosis, zoonoses (diseases humans contract from animals), infections acquired in health care facilities, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, community sanitation, food safety, health outcomes related to environmental hazards, occupational safety and radiological health issues.

Contact: Bryant McNally, Director

573/751-6080

Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health

The Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health promotes optimal health by providing leadership to both the public and private sectors in assessing health care needs of families and communities and in assuring that the health system responds appropriately. The division is responsible for developing policy; planning systems of care; and designing, implementing and evaluating programs to meet the health care needs of families in the state of Missouri. The division has the administrative and programmatic responsibility for a combination of state, federal and private funding to support programs that: prevent injuries, disabilities and the avoidable negative consequences of inadequate prenatal care; assure that children and disadvantaged adults receive high quality, basic health and support services; provide payment for care for uninsured and underinsured citizens who require specialized health and nutritional services; and offer a toll-free telephone number (1-800-TEL-LINK) that refers women and their families to services including prenatal care, Medicaid, parenting skills and other maternal, child and family health services.

Contact: Paula Nickelson, Director

573/751-6174

Division of Nutritional Health and Services

The mission of the Division of Nutritional Health and Services is to decrease preventable nutrition-related morbidity and mortality throughout the life cycle. The division is responsible for coordinating all nutrition-related activities within the department, conducting nutrition-related epidemiological and surveillance activities, and providing technical guidance as needed. The division is also responsible for facilitating appropriate linkages between department programs and programs in other state agencies that have nutrition components. The division supports nutritional assessment of adolescents through the School Age Children's Health Services Grants; and manages the Healthy Children Nutrition Education Initiative community grant program; a breastfeeding promotion program, the Missouri Nutrition Network; the Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS); and the Pregnancy Surveillance System (PNSS). The division also administers the WIC Program (special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children), the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.

Contact: Gretchen C. Wartman, Director

573/526-5520

Division of Health Standards and Licensure

The Division of Health Standards and Licensure is responsible for assuring that the care and services provided by hospitals, long-term care facilities, ambulatory surgical centers, home health agencies, hospices, child care providers, ambulances, paramedics, handlers of controlled substances, lead abatement professionals and 23 types of Medicare-certified health programs meet state and/or Medicare standards. Investigating concerns or complaints in any of these areas is part of the division's authority. The Section of Long-Term Care Regulation has seven regional offices located across the state; survey teams from each region are responsible for conducting one-site regulatory activities in long-term care facilities.

Contact: Lois Kollmeyer, Director

573/751-6271

The Division of Senior Services serves the State of Missouri to assure that all elderly and adult disabled citizens can remain independent and safe in their communities and homes by administering state and federal community-based programs. The division advises legislators, advocates, state agencies and other organizations and individuals regarding services and data available to support this function. The director's office sets policy, formulates the division's budget, conducts research, develops new initiatives and is responsible for the administrative oversight of all program bureaus and support units. The Section of Home and Community Services' regional offices, which are located throughout the state, provide oversight to the social service workers, community health nurses, and long-term care specialist located in the state's 114 counties plus the City of St. Louis.

573/526-3626



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